

SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE

9650 ROCKVILLE PIKE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

TELEPHONE: (301) 530-8955

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The major problems today affecting the brain, nervous system and behavior, will be discussed at the Second annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Houston, Texas, October 8 - 11, at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel.

Basic research and its clinical application will be discussed by leading neuroscientists. Among those participating are Nobel Laureates Marshal Nirenberg and Sir John Eccles. Major topics include: amphetamines--their mode of action and effects; the nature and treatment of pain; how neurochemical and electrical information is transmitted; how the nervous system develops; how psychoactive drugs affect nerve cells; and processes involved in chemical senses such as taste and smell.

The morning symposia will be broad overviews. The afternoon lectures and workshops (panel discussions) will present new and specific information on such topics as: a model system for studying encoding and decoding neural information; stimulant drug treatment in children with minimal brain dysfunction; and social issues such as nutritional research and mental retardation, and how basic science might solve social problems in drug abuse.

Other topics covered in volunteer papers presented concurrently with the morning symposia include memory, learning, action of hallucinogenic and addictive drugs, and hormones and the nervous system.

In addition, the Society's President, Dr. Neal E. Miller, Rockefeller University, will deliver the Presidential Address on Monday, October 9. Dr. Miller is known for his innovative work on the psychosomatic effects of learning--training the body through learning to control activities previously thought to be involuntary (such as regulation of heart beat and blood pressure). He was recently featured in the New Yorker magazine series "Profile".

Dr. Stephen W. Kuffler, professor and chairman, Department of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, will deliver the Grass Foundation Lecture on Tuesday, October 10, at 8:30 p.m. Dr. Kuffler will speak on the use of combined techniques to map the nerve synapse and view reception of the neurotransmitter. Dr. Kuffler's work marks the first time this has been documented for the nerve cell, and should lead to a better understanding of how information travels along the nerve cell, and from one cell to another.

A lecture of interest to the general public will be given by Dr. Arthur A. Ward, professor and chairman, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, on Sunday, October 8, from 4-5 p.m. Dr. Ward will speak on the effort by neuroscientists to focus their research on problems directly affecting man, and that rather than hoping for sensational breakthroughs, the public should expect steady progress toward solving complex neurological problems.

Special features of the meeting will be physiological and behavioral demonstrations at nearby Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Medical Center, on Sunday, October 8, beginning at 11:00 a.m. These will include a demonstration of DMSO in the treatment of experimental head and spinal cord injuries, and the possible molecular coding for learned motor adaptation in the goldfish.

For additional information contact: Miss Caroline Holstein, (301) 496-5751